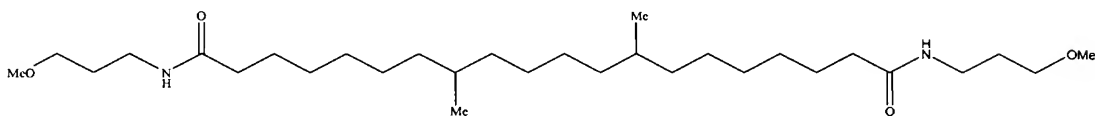


IN THE CLAIMS

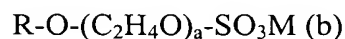
Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A hair shampoo composition comprising the following components (A) and ~~(B)~~ to (C):

(A): 0.5 to 2 wt.% of an amphipathic amide lipid of the formula



(B): from ~~5 to 30~~ 7 to 10 wt. % of sulfate surfactants which are each represented by the following formula (b):



wherein, R represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having from 8 to 18 carbon atoms, a stands for 0 or a positive integer, and M represents an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkanolamine or basic amino group; are made of from 30 to 45 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting a=0, from 17 to 27 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting a=1, from 10 to 20 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting a=2, and the balance of the sulfates exhibiting a=3 or greater; and contain the sulfates exhibiting a=0 to 2 in an amount of 70 wt. % or greater based on the total sulfates; and

(C) 0.1 to 1 wt. % of a cationic polymer selected from the group consisting of cationic cellulose derivatives and cationic guar gum derivatives, and mixtures thereof,

wherein said shampoo composition has a pH of from ~~1 to 5~~ 3 to 4 at 25°C when diluted to 20 times its weight with water.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (original) The hair shampoo composition of claim 1, wherein component (B) is a sulfate type surfactant which is made of from 33 to 43 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting  $a=0$ , from 20 to 25 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting  $a=1$ , from 13 to 18 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting  $a=2$ , and the balance of the sulfates exhibiting  $a=3$  or greater; and the sulfates exhibiting  $a=0$  to 2 are incorporated in an amount of from 85 wt. % or greater based on all the sulfates.

5-7. (canceled)

8. (withdrawn) A hair protecting method, which comprises the steps of applying a hair shampoo composition as claimed in claim 1 to the hair, shampooing with the composition, and then rinsing off the composition.